



The Three Redwoods



Coast Redwood

Sequoia sempervirens

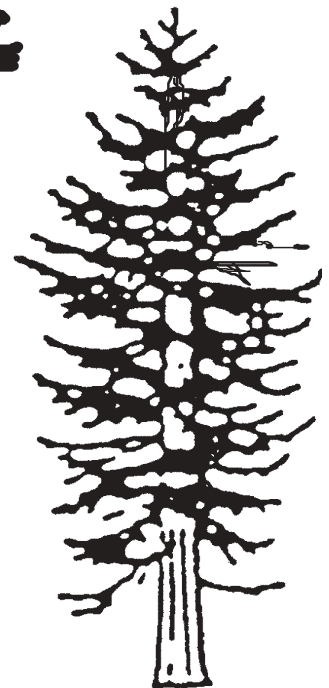
Coast redwoods tower above all other living things. A marvel to stand beneath, the tallest trees in the world cannot survive alone. Dense forest stands grow on nutrient-rich river bars and flood plains, protected from wind. Here, redwoods receive life-assuring rain and fog from interplay with the ocean and develop their own micro-environment.



Giant Sequoia

Sequoiadendron giganteum

No trees anywhere grow larger than the giant sequoias. The General Sherman tree in Sequoia National Park is the largest living thing on earth, with a total volume of 50,000 cubic feet.



Dawn Redwood

Metasequoia glyptostroboides

The dawn redwood was long thought to be extinct, exterminated by the ice ages, until 1944 when living trees were found in China. The tree is easily distinguished from its California relatives by its smaller size and deciduous leaves.



Sempervirens



Glyptostroboidea



Giganteum

Coast Redwood

Sequoia sempervirens

Height: 365 feet or more (112m)
Diameter: To 22 feet (7m)
Age: More than 2,000 years
Leaves: Both needle and awl shaped, attached at base, evergreen
Cone size: Like a large olive, shed after 1-2 years
Seed size: Like a tomato seed
Reproduce: By seed or sprout
Habitat/climate: Seedlings are shade tolerant, but frost sensitive; require lots of moisture
Distribution: Northern California coast



Giant Sequoia

Sequoiadendron giganteum

Height: To 311 feet (95m)
Diameter: To 40 feet (12m)
Age: More than 3,000 years
Leaves: Awl shaped, attached at base, evergreen
Cone size: Like a chicken egg, can stay on tree for two decades
Seed size: Like an oat flake
Reproduce: By seed only
Habitat/climate: Seedlings require lots of light, are frost tolerant and drought resistant
Distribution: Sierra Nevada Mountains of central California



Dawn Redwood

Metasequoia glyptostroboidea

Height: To 140 feet (43m)
Diameter: To 6 feet (2m)
Age: Unknown
Leaves: Needle-like with small stalk, arranged opposite each other, deciduous
Cone size: Like a large olive, shed yearly
Seed size: Like a tomato seed
Reproduce: By seed
Distribution: Central China

